

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter • December 2014

### **Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities!**

Volunteers are especially needed for the following projects: **Visitor Counting Surveyor** (drive around the Refuge and count the total number of visitors) and **Scout Day Leader** (lead Saturday programs for young Girl and Boy Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges). See next page for more information.

### **What's New?**

Anywhere from 100 million to 1 billion birds are killed by flying into windows each year. For her senior project, Nampa High student Damaris researched how to prevent strikes. With staff help, she recently installed netting on the visitor center observation room windows. Thanks, Damaris!

### **Cheers!**

Thanks to all the Visitor Center Host volunteers for keeping the Visitor Center open on Saturdays and helping things run smoothly throughout the week. We are very grateful!

### **Around the water cooler...**

An injured Great Blue Heron was dropped off at the Visitor Center last month after hours. Fortunately it was still alive when staff arrived. Unfortunately we cannot rehabilitate wildlife on the refuge. It was safely transported to a wildlife rehabilitator. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we do not rehabilitate wildlife but we can provide contact info for those who do!

### **Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge**

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports the Refuge in many ways. Meet some new Friends and find out how you can get involved at the annual member potluck **see details below!** Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. [Friendsofdfr@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofdfr@gmail.com) for info about membership or getting involved.

### **Upcoming Events**      *Unless otherwise stated, all activities take place at the Refuge Visitor Center*

**Wild About Life Lecture—Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Christmas Bird Count.** A local wild bird survey, the Christmas Bird Count, takes place every winter in Canyon County. Learn about the Count and the species found locally. Members of Southwestern Idaho Birders Association .

**Friends of Deer Flat Annual Potluck Dinner—Friday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM**

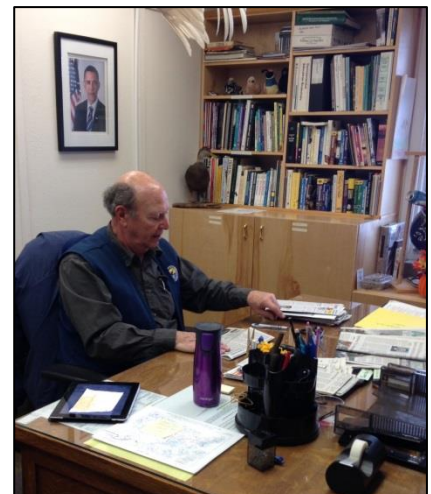
Friends members, volunteers, and the public are invited. Enjoy good food with others who love the Refuge and learn about how the Friends support the Refuge and connect people with wildlife. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**Hibernate, Migrate, or Insulate: A Wildlife Winter Survival Guide—Saturday, Jan 10th from 9-2:30**

Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Second to fourth graders must pre-register for this fun winter day camp.



Damaris and team installing bird safe netting on visitor center observation room windows (Photo USFWS)



Visitor Center Host Jack working on projects (Photo courtesy Mackenzie Tietjen).



## **Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!**

### **Visitor Counting Surveyor** (1 volunteer per month)

**Dates and Times:** A couple of hours between 4 PM and dark on four weekdays/month and 2 weekends/month. Volunteer surveyors drive around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle and count the total number of visitors at each Refuge access point. Data will be used to estimate total Refuge visitation. This is a long-term, year-round opportunity. **Deadline to Register:** January

### **Scout Day Leader** (2-3 volunteers per month)

**Date and Time:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 1-3 PM. Need volunteers for Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, and May 2. Volunteers lead programs that include nature crafts and a short hike at this opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register:** Ongoing

## **Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Cabin Fever Reliever Exhibit Helper, Saturday, Feb 7 (3-4 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times:** Saturday Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 5:30pm. The Refuge would like to have a booth at this Kids' First Cast event at the Karcher Mall. The event is designed to get kids and their families out of the house to chase away the winter blahs by teaching them about fishing, casting, archery, water safety, and conservation. Volunteers needed to help kids with fun activities to learn about fishing, wildlife, and the Refuge. Let us know if you're interested in a full-day (9:30-5:30) or half-day shift (9:30-1:30 or 1:30-5:30). **Deadline to Register:** January 23<sup>rd</sup>



### **Junior Duck Stamp Art Days Volunteers (2 volunteers per Saturday listed)**

**Dates and Times:** Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> and Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 10AM-4PM.

Volunteers are needed to help K-12 students that are invited to drop in to draw, have fun, learn about Idaho waterfowl and enter the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. **Deadline to Register:** Ongoing

### **Donations Wanted: Film Canisters and Camo Cloth**

**Film canisters** are useful for a variety of environmental education activities and they are almost obsolete so we're trying to stock up before it's too late. Please donate your spares. Also, do you have any **camouflage cloth**? It could even be some worn out clothes or blankets that you no longer need. We would like to use it for Creepy Critters and other EE programs. If you have either, please drop them by the Visitor Center!

### **Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)**

**Dates and Time:** Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>—10am and repeating at 2pm

We are still looking for volunteers to lead the program. Help connect youngsters to wildlife and nature—and help free up staff time to lead other educational programs. We are seeking volunteers to select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts (ask us for ideas!), and lead the storytelling and craft making. **Deadline to register:** Ongoing.

### **Visitor Center "Bird-Safing" (1-2 volunteers)**

**Dates and Times:** Saturdays throughout the year.

We have netting installed on the observation room windows (see *What's New*), but birds also sometimes strike the Visitor Center doors and other windows. Volunteer is needed to experiment with possible solutions to make other doors and windows bird-safe. **Deadline to Register:** Sign up before December 10<sup>th</sup> to get on the January-March schedule.

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Mackenzie Tietjen or Susan Kain at [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.

**Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!**